

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Action issued October 3, 2007. Claims 1-20 are pending in this Application. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Claims 9-12 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this Application.

Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Izawa, et al. in view of Humphrey and further in view of Satran, et al. Claims 9-12 have been amended to depend from allowed Independent Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 9-12 are patentably distinct from the proposed Izawa, et al. - Humphrey - Satran, et al. combination.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claims 1-8 and 13-20. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's reasons for allowance to the extent that they are inconsistent with applicable case law, statutes, and regulations. Furthermore, Applicant does not admit to any characterization or limitation of the claims or to any characterization of a reference by the Examiner, particularly any that are inconsistent with the language of the claims considered in their entirety and including all of their constituent limitations.

This Response to Examiner's Final Action is necessary to address the new grounds of rejection and newly cited art and place the application into condition for allowance. This Response to examiner's Final Action could not have been presented earlier as the Examiner has only now provided the new grounds of rejection and the newly cited art.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments associated with this Application to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Attorneys for Applicants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles S. Fish", is written over the typed name.

Charles S. Fish

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